



Democratic State Committee Meeting

November 18, 2021 | Meeting Minutes

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Gus Bickford welcomed members to the virtual meeting and reviewed rules of engagement and etiquette for the call. The Chair reviewed the check in process for the meeting, reminding members to check into the meeting via email or through the link in the chat and confirm their attendance was recorded at massdems.org/dscmeeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. and Bickford asked Kathleen Healy to lead the committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Since the committee was checking in via Google form, the Chair dispensed with the roll call.

The Chair reviewed the agenda, including the approval of the 2022 budget and 2022 Method of Selecting Delegates, an announcement from the Site Selection Committee regarding the location of the 2022 convention, and an update on the diversity, equity, and inclusion training being developed by the state committee, among regular reports from subcommittee chairs. A motion was made to approve the agenda, it was seconded, and passed unanimously. Terry Altherr made one correction to the minutes, there was a motion to accept the minutes with the correction, it was seconded, and passed.

Bickford's report highlighted Democratic achievements at the federal level, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan, and victories at the municipal level, congratulating member Michelle Wu on her election as Mayor of Boston. Finally, the Chair reviewed developments with Blueprint to '22 and the Democrats Care service program.

The Chair recognized Treasurer Kathy Gasperine to deliver the Treasurer's report. Gasperine reviewed the committee's finances immediately following the 2021 state convention and end-of-year fundraising totals. William Shemeth a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, it was seconded and approved.

Gasperine then reviewed the budget for 2022, included projected income and expenses of the state convention and coordinated campaign. Shemeth motioned to approve the budget and it was seconded. Bickford and Gasperine answered questions from members regarding the coordinated campaign expenses, scholarship stipends, and meeting costs. The 2022 budget was approved.

There were no officers' reports. The Chair then recognized Executive Director Veronica Martinez to talk about Blueprint to '22 and announce that Blueprint Coordinator Erin Buechele has



accepted a position with the DNC, where she would continue organizing service projects at the national level with the Democrats Care program and the Best Practices Institute. Buechele reported that staff has engaged over 100 captains and over 300 training shifts were completed as part of the Blueprint Bootcamps program. Martinez and Buechele also encouraged members to volunteer in the 4th Essex House District ahead of the special election.

The Chair thanked Buechele for her work and then recognized Gillian Hinkson to report on the diversity, equity, and inclusion training being developed by the committee. Hinkson reported that the committee contracted Carole Thomas & Associates, a Boston-based, woman of color-owned business, to plan training sessions.

The Chair recognized Bill Eddy to deliver the Rules Subcommittee report. Eddy reviewed the Method of Selecting Delegates for the 2022 state convention. The Method requires caucuses to include a virtual participation option or be held remotely. Eddy reviewed add-on seats, delegate fees, and compliance and challenge process. Shemeth motioned to approve the Method and it was seconded. Claire Naughton motioned to amend the caucus window to February 4th to March 12th, adding a week to the end of the proposed window. Shemeth accepted the motion as a friendly amendment and the caucus window was extended to March 12th. Lesley Phillips motioned to amend the language of the method to include the word “hybrid.” Discussion ensued, the question was called, and the motion passed. The Method of Selecting Delegates was approved as amended.

Bickford recognized Co-chair of the Site Selection Subcommittee Michael Lanava. Lanava reported that the DCU in Worcester responded to the request for proposal issued by the committee for the 2022 convention, and their proposal was unanimously recommended by the Site Selection Subcommittee. Shemeth motioned to accept the recommendation, it was seconded, and passed.

The Chair recognized Resolutions Subcommittee Co-chairs Marianne Rutter and Joe Kelly, who reported that the subcommittee recommended all three resolutions--two regarding climate change and one regarding the legalization of cannabis--be approved by the full committee. A motion was made to approve the report, it was seconded, and approved.

Bickford recognized Hinkson to deliver the Affirmative Action Outreach Subcommittee Report. Hinkson reported that the subcommittee proposed a series of amendments to the charter that were approved by delegates at the last convention and asked members to attend their next meeting on November 23rd.



The Chair recognized Max German, who introduced Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Steve Tolman. Tolman delivered remarks on Big Tech's efforts to misclassify workers in order to deny them certain rights and protections. Bickford then recognized Jim Pimental to deliver the test of the Labor Outreach Subcommittee's report. Pimental reviewed legislative updates, the Coalition to Protect Workers Rights, and messaging considerations.

The Chair then recognized Amanda Smith to deliver the Campaign Services Subcommittee Report. Smith reported that the subcommittee would meet quarterly and encouraged members to join the Saturday Organizing Hub.

Bickford recognized Cheryl Cumings to deliver the Disability Outreach Subcommittee's report. Cumings reviewed the Boston Mayoral Candidate Forum they recently hosted and previewed future discussions with Alex Gray and Senator Ed Markey.

The Chair recognized Martina Jackson, who delivered the Public Policy Subcommittee Report. Jackson reported that Cabell Eames and Ann Roosevelt would be co-chairing a subcommittee on the climate crisis and urged members to reach out to her to get involved.

Bickford recognized Mehreen Butt to deliver the Women's Outreach Subcommittee's report. Butt reviewed the committee's efforts in the 4th Essex House District. Norma Shulman previewed an upcoming event focusing on women candidates in New Hampshire. Adeline Bee reviewed updates to their speaker series, and asked the committee to recommend veteran women for an upcoming event.

The Chair recognized Chuck Battle to deliver the Veterans and Military Families Subcommittee Report. Battle reported on efforts with Senator John Velis to secure funding for the veterans treatment court transportation.

Bickford recognized Amy Kullar to deliver the Communications Subcommittee's report. Kullar reported that the committee would be focusing on connecting with town and ward committee chairs ahead of caucuses and efforts to promote upcoming communications-focused Blueprint Bootcamps. Chris Matthews asked members to help the subcommittee identify communications leads on each local committee.

The Chair recognized Diego Sanchez to deliver the LGBTQ+ Outreach Subcommittee Report. Diego reviewed electoral victories of LGBTQ+ in Massachusetts and reminded the committee of the upcoming Transgender Day of Remembrance.



Bickford recognized Max German to deliver the report for the JFK Scholarship Subcommittee. German highlighted the work completed by the most recent class of interns.

The Chair recognized Brenda Brathwaite, who delivered the DNC Members Report. Brathwaite reviewed the provisions of the Build Back Better Act and encouraged members to use the toolkit sent out by staff.

As part of New Business, the Chair announced three vacant add-on seats, including one lesbian seat previously filled by Rhonda Bourne and affirmative action seats filled by Pierrce Holmes and Randy Tatum, which the committee will fill at the next meeting. Bickford also announced a vacant male ballot seat in the Second Suffolk District, a seat previously held by Jeff Ross, which will be filled by district conference.

The Chair recognized Pablo Ruiz, who delivered remarks on the Work and Family Mobility Act to enable all residents to apply for standard driver's licenses. Bickford then recognized Rebecca Morris to speak on efforts to oppose mask mandates in Carlisle.

Bickford recognized Jonathan Cohn, who asked the chair for an update on the status of members not in compliance with attendance requirements outlined in the charter. Bickford reported that members had been notified and attendance would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked staff and volunteers for their work ahead of and during the meeting. There was a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

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